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## VERA OUMANCOFF

SEPTEMBER 24 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 19), 1951.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. McCARRAN, from the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted the following

### REPORT

[To accompany S. 1274]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to which was referred the bill (S. 1274) for the relief of Vera Oumancoff, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

#### PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of the bill is to grant the status of permanent residence in the United States to Vera Oumancoff. The bill provides for an appropriate quota deduction and for the payment of the required visa fee and head tax.

#### STATEMENT OF FACTS

The beneficiary of the bill is a 65-year-old native of Russia and citizen of France who last entered the United States as a visitor on September 9, 1950. She has been in the United States on a number of occasions and on February 17, 1941, she was lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence following which she filed her declaration of intention to become a United States citizen. However, before becoming a citizen she returned to France in 1945 for permanent residence, thereby abandoning her residence in the United States. She has resided with Mr. and Mrs. Jacques Maritain for the past 40 years and is presently with them as a housekeeper and companion to Mrs. Maritain. Mr. Maritain is a professor at Princeton University.

A letter dated August 13, 1951, to the chairman of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary from the Deputy Attorney General with reference to the case reads as follows:

AUGUST 13, 1951.

Hon. PAT McCARRAN,  
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,  
United States Senate, Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR SENATOR: This is in response to your request for the views of the Department of Justice relative to the bill (S. 1274) for the relief of Vera Oumancoff, an alien.

The bill would provide that Vera Oumancoff shall be considered to have been lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence as of the date of its enactment, upon payment of the required visa fee and head tax. It would also direct the Secretary of State to instruct the quota-control officer to deduct one number from the appropriate immigration quota.

The files of the Immigration and Naturalization Service of this Department disclose that the alien is a native of Russia, having been born in Marejoupol, Russia, on June 20, 1886. She became a citizen of France through the naturalization of her parents in Paris, France, on September 17, 1900. She last entered the United States at the port of New York on September 9, 1950, when she was admitted as a visitor under section 3 (2) of the Immigration Act of 1924, for a period expiring on September 8, 1951.

Miss Oumancoff has visited the United States on numerous occasions, and was admitted for permanent residence at Rouses Point, N. Y., on February 17, 1941. Later during that year she indicated her intention of becoming a citizen of this country by filing a declaration of intention. However, before becoming a citizen she returned to France on July 30, 1945, for permanent residence, thereby abandoning her residence in the United States.

Miss Oumancoff has resided with Mr. and Mrs. Jacques Maritain for the past 40 years, accompanying them on their travels. She has served as Mr. Maritain's private secretary in the past and is presently with them as a housekeeper and companion to Mrs. Maritain, who is her sister. Mr. Maritain is a professor at Princeton University. He and his wife were admitted to the United States for permanent residence on May 4, 1951. It appears that Miss Oumancoff has no other relatives.

The quota of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, to which the alien is chargeable, is oversubscribed and a quota immigration visa is not readily available. The record, however, presents no facts which would justify the enactment of special legislation granting her a preference over others who remain abroad and follow the procedure prescribed by law in obtaining entry for permanent residence in the United States.

Accordingly, this Department is unable to recommend enactment of the measure.

Yours sincerely,

PEYTON FORD,  
Deputy Attorney General.

The files of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary contain the following correspondence addressed to Senators Irving M. Ives and Earle C. Clements in connection with the bill:

SCHMIDT, EGAN & MURRAY,  
New York, N. Y., June 7, 1951.

Hon. IRVING M. IVES,  
The Senate, Senate Office Building,  
Washington, D. C.

DEAR SENATOR IVES: One of my closest personal friends is Jacques Maritain, the great Thomist philosopher and the former Ambassador of France to the Vatican. I am sure, at one time or other, you must have read some of his writings. Recently, he told me of a difficulty in which he has become involved in connection with which I would like to solicit help. He is in this country with his wife, Raissa, and his sister-in-law, Vera Oumancoff. They reside at 26 Linden Lane, Princeton, N. J. Professor Maritain lectures on moral philosophy at Princeton University. He also gives special lectures at many other institutions of higher learning in the United States. All three are French citizens. Miss

Oumancoff acts largely as Professor Maritain's secretary. All three have been part of one household ever since Raissa and Jacques were married.

Not long ago Miss Oumancoff's status as a visitor to the United States was challenged by the United States Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service (File No. 0400-40065 A. R. No. 7556964).

As a result, there was introduced in the House of Representatives by Congressman John F. Kennedy (Eleventh District, Massachusetts) a bill dated April 5, 1951 (H. R. 3567), for the purpose of providing legislative relief for Miss Oumancoff. A corresponding bill dated April 9, 1951, was introduced in the Senate by Senator H. Alexander Smith of New Jersey (S. 1274).

The purpose of this letter is to ask your aid and that of your friends in the House and in the Senate for the purpose of getting these bills through as quickly as possible. As you know, Jacques Maritain is one of the really great philosophers of our time. His contributions to philosophy, art, and literature are so outstanding that I personally believe America is honored in having him here in this country so long and so consistently. Besides, I know no real Americans who are more loyal and friendly to our institutions than the Maritains and Miss Oumancoff.

Anything you are able to do in this connection, I will deeply appreciate.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely,

GODFREY.

OUR LADY OF GETHSEMANI TRAPPIST-CISTERCIAN ABBEY,  
*Trappist Post Office, Ky., August 1, 1951.*

Hon. EARLE C. CLEMENTS,  
*United States Senate, Washington, D. C.*

MY DEAR SENATOR: We do not trouble you too much with requests. We know you have plenty, and then some, dearest Senator. But this is a request very dear to our heart.

There is a very famous professor at Princeton University; formerly he was Ambassador of France to the Vatican. He is also an outstanding philosopher: Jacques Maritain.

His wife's sister is Vera Oumancoff. She is resident in New Jersey since he is a professor at Princeton.

I believe a Senator from New Jersey has taken the case in hand, to have a special bill introduced into the United States Senate, and another one into the House, so that his wife's sister may be allowed to remain in this country.

The number of the bill in the Senate is S. 1274 of April 9, and in the House H. R. 3567, April 5.

We would appreciate anything you can do, dearest Senator, to hasten the passage of these bills.

All of us continue to pray for you, and for dear Mrs. Clements, in the daily round of our Trappist Cistercian life of prayer and sacrifice here at Gethsemani.

All for Jesus—through Mary—with a smile,

FATHER M. JAMES, O. C. S. O.,  
*Abbot.*

In addition, the following letters to the chairman of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary from Senators H. Alexander Smith and Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr., read as follows:

UNITED STATES SENATE,  
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS,  
*August 16, 1951.*

Hon. PAT MCCARRAN,  
*Senate Judiciary Committee, Washington, D. C.*

MY DEAR SENATOR: I am advised that you are shortly considering the case of Vera Oumancoff in whose behalf I introduced S. 1274 on April 9, 1951.

I am especially interested in this case because of the support the bill has by my good friend of many years, Prof. J. Douglas Brown, dean of the faculty at Princeton University, and the fact that Miss Oumancoff is a sister-in-law of Professor Maritain and his wife and has lived with them for 40 years.

Professor Maritain is now on the faculty of Princeton University and I understand he is also doing some special lecturing at the University of Chicago. I am being urged by the faculty of Princeton University to expedite action on the Oumancoff bill because her temporary visitor's visa expires on September 8.

I am advised that both Senators Henry Cabot Lodge and William Benton are very much interested in this case as well as myself. If you desire us to do so, Senators Lodge, Benton, and myself would be glad to discuss this matter further before your committee.

With kindest personal regards, I remain,  
Always cordially yours,

H. ALEXANDER SMITH.

UNITED STATES SENATE,  
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS,  
May 25, 1951.

Hon. PAT McCARRAN,  
*Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,  
United States Senate, Washington 25, D. C.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This letter is to express my strong personal interest in S. 1274, a bill for the relief of Vera Oumancoff. Mrs. Oumancoff is the sister-in-law of Prof. Jacques Maritain, famous Catholic philosopher, and there are extremely prominent and distinguished citizens of Massachusetts who are interested in this legislation. I strongly share their interest and wish to urge personally that every possible step be taken to expedite action on this bill.

With kind personal regards,  
Faithfully yours,

HENRY CABOT LODGE, Jr.,  
*United States Senator.*

Jacques Maritain, the brother-in-law of the beneficiary of the bill, has written to the chairman of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary as follows:

WASHINGTON, D. C., August 21, 1951.

DEAR SENATOR McCARRAN: I take the liberty of pointing out some facts related to the bill introduced by Senator Alexander Smith in behalf of my sister-in-law, Miss Vera Oumancoff (S. 1274).

My sister-in-law received her first papers, like my wife and myself, on August 15, 1941. It is only to accompany my wife and myself that she left the United States in 1945, when I was appointed French Ambassador to the Holy See.

I was lecturing in this country in 1940. At the time of the invasion of France by the Germans, I decided to make our home in the United States, while devoting myself to teaching and writing. The only reason for which I left the United States in 1945 was my appointment as French Ambassador to the Vatican, a temporary mission which I, of course, could not and should not refuse.

My sister-in-law did not leave the United States to establish her residence in France. Only continuing to live with my wife and myself, she came with her sister from Boston to Naples, on July 30, 1945, and resided with us at the French Embassy to the Vatican, during the period of my mission to Rome.

It was, moreover, the intention of all three of us to return to the United States. As soon as I resigned from my diplomatic post. I was invited by President Dodds to become a full professor at Princeton University (where I had already taught during the war). Thus, we came over from Naples to New York in June 1948, and since this time we have resided in Princeton, where we own a house.

Miss Vera Oumancoff is a permanent and indispensable member of our family. She has lived with us for 40 years. She has no other relatives. On the other hand my wife, because of the condition of her health, needs the constant attendance of her sister. As a result, if it were impossible for my sister-in-law to reside permanently in the United States, I should be obliged to cease my teaching and to leave this country.

It does not behoove me to speak of my own work. I should like only to mention that I have been periodically lecturing in the United States from 1933 to 1940. I resided in New York during the war, contributing to the war effort in many manners, especially by weekly speeches at the OWI and by writing two booklets at the request of the OSS. I have published more than 20 books in this country. I received honorary degrees from the University of Pennsylvania, Princeton University, Boston University, the University of Edinburgh, Manhattan College, the University of Notre Dame. The American Catholic Philosophical Association conferred on me this year its first Thomas Aquinas-Cardinal Spellman Award. In addition to my regular teaching in Princeton, I have en-



gements next year at the University of Chicago and the University of Notre Dame. I also must give a series of six lectures at the National Gallery of Arts in Washington.

I must add that I usually avail myself of summer vacation to teach in France. Given the condition of my wife's health, and the need she has of her sister, the fact that my sister-in-law cannot leave the country as long as a private law in her behalf has not been passed obliged me to cancel my engagements in France this summer. But it would be a serious misfortune, from every respect, if I were obliged to do so next summer again. Consequently, I shall be especially grateful if the Committee on the Judiciary is good enough to decide on this matter at its earliest convenience.

Hoping that the above-mentioned facts may be taken into consideration by the committee, and thanking in advance the committee and its chairman, I am, dear Senator McCarran,

Sincerely yours,

JACQUES MARITAIN.

The committee, after consideration of all the facts in the case, is of the opinion that the bill (S. 1274) should be enacted.

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